

**2008 CI Directors Meeting
June 17 – 18, 2008 (Hosted By CICS)**

Attendees:

NOAA: Bates, Higgins, Guch, Goodman, Ferraro, Brown, Mayo, Flynn, Goldberg, Liogys, Powell, Lord

CI: Arkin, Miller, Stephens, Khanbilvardi, R. Jones, Achtor, Ackerman

JCSDA: Riishojgaard

[Note: Ackerman and Achtor came in on 6/18 due to flight issues on 6/17]

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

• **Introductions/Logistics – Arkin**

• **STAR/CoRP Highlights – Guch**

- Key focus on 3 initiatives – CDR's, SATB, Education
- CoRP Symposium
 - CICS folks going – Ragu, Phil, Chris B., Matt S., Dan V.
 - CREST – 2 researchers, 7 students
 - CIRA – 3-4 people going
- Student Exchanges
 - Due to lack of funds, CREST will host folks rather than send
 - Utilize CoRP blog
 - Encourage NCDC and CPC to host
 - Most CI's just in planning phase right now
- Administrative updates
 - Staffing update. STAR has 5-6 vacancies that are unfilled due to budget constraints. SG mentions that priorities are for new grants person and Sr. Scientist for data assimilation.
 - NOAA logo usage; still trying to get VADM to approve
 - CI Themes – all new projects must be within your CI's theme!
 - Be sure to acknowledge CI's and NOAA in presentations and posters
 - CoRP Blog (www.corpblogspot.org) – utilize it!
- Feedback/Issues?
 - Grants obligation taking longer than usual – any impact? None reported.
 - Task I/Base funding? CIs indicate this needs to keep up with inflation.
- Action items
 - CI's involvement in CDR's (assigned to Arkin)
 - Phil Arkin engaged with Bates and Bates is present
 - Phil Arkin has interacted with NCDC and STAR on this a bit
 - Progress a bit slowed due to FY08 NPOESS climate activities
 - Satellite algorithm testbed (assigned to Vonder Haar/Jones)
 - Workshop held in February and document evolving
 - Collaborative teaching (assigned to Guch/Ackerman/Reza)
 - Sample lectures/course done in past year
 - Inform CI's of NESDIS job openings (Guch)
 - CoRP Blog established
 - Others from previous year – CI travel (improved), post proposal/funding announcements on CoRP blogs (including CPC/CTB – Higgins very interested),

getting CI's involved in PPBES process (STAR is including CI funding in budget activities), but improvements can still be made

- Ingrid is going to have a baby around Oct. 31; maternity leave for 3 months afterwards! Chris Brown will be taking over for Ingrid as acting 8/4 – 11/28.

- **Satellite Algorithm Testbed (SATB) – Goodman**

- Overview of SATB concept
- Status:
 - Workshop held Feb 25-26, 2008 at NSOF (Goodman, Yoe, Guch, A. Jones were organizers)
 - Diverse participation
 - FY11-15 PPBES initiative put forward (ASARPP); goal team linkages
 - SATB introduced at NESDIS Senior Leadership Retreat (June 4-5)
 - White paper in final draft
 - Recommendations
 - SATB establishment is needed
 - Structure should be similar to JHTB
 - Science Algorithm WG needed to coordinate activities
 - Common computing environment required
 - NOAA needs to invest in necessary H/W
 - CI to consolidate computational configurations via common H/W and S/W libraries (e.g., CRTM)
 - Technical WG oversight
 - A few more....
 - Lengthy discussion on this...
 - Centralized vs. distributed computing environment
 - Grants process...
 - Help desk – “middle man” is crucial to make this work (Higgins–CTB)
 - Let's not introduce YET ANOTHER set of standards (Bates)

- **Climate Data Records/SDS – Bates**

- FY09 budget remanifests TSIS and CERES sensors for climate record continuity
- Review of NPOESS payloads. MIS will be built at NRL. Eliminate mesospheric sounding capability. 1.8 m dish. Fly on C2. Potential partnership with GCOM-W (AMSR-2) and GCOM-C (GLI)
- NOAA should take lead on CDR science support.
- Review of CDR maturity R2O concept
- FY09 activities
 - \$8 M for CDR effort. Emphasis on:
 - FCDR's (DMSP; joint teams with NASA)
 - TCDR's (joint NASA-NOAA teams, pathfinder CDR's)
 - CIR's @ CI's (hurricanes, solar power, water vapor, etc.)
 - Risk reduction via directed research at NOAA (e.g., CCDD ARC projects to ops; R2O, etc.)
 - Spinning up a project office
 - Grants via its own RA – proposals due in fall 2008.
- CI's are envisioned a key component of CDR's
- Good general discussion on CDR's...

- General Discussion Session #1 (complete group) – **Tuesday afternoon**
 - Education focus group
 - Wind remote sensing (CIRA – Kidder) to CIOSS
 - Went well
 - MW remote sensing (CICS – Ferraro) to CREST
 - Soundings (CIMSS - Menzel) to CREST
 - CREST major issues with their phones impacted effectiveness
 - It was suggested that for next lecture, each student has a PC w/speaker?
 - Wayne was asking about offering such courses to NWS staff...
 - Maybe record them in the future?
 - The next notes is sort of a discussion on CDR activities:
 - Joint Center Collaborations?
 - Climate Testbed and weather/climate connection?
 - Group seemed to struggle on how to get ALL of the CI's involved with the W-CL connections – seems better suited to a few CI's, not all of them.
 - Maybe hurricanes?
 - More discussions on CTB and CI interactions via brown bag series – expand this to more than CTB and CICS?
 - Seems like there is an issue on folks knowing about funding vehicles; Ingrid suggests the NOAA omnibus (comes out June/July each year). Reza indicates that CREST doesn't know about such things...
 - Discussion drifted to data assimilation and CI involvement
 - Steve indicates the FY09 does not have much money, won't be a RA and they just might extend some current projects
 - More discussions on budget process and who to influence to get resources for NOAA activities that really need resources...(Mostly Wayne, John and Steve)
 - Reza suggests since SDS program is apparently well funded, hold a workshop via Bates to align CI's and develop an implementation plan (Graeme)
 - I guess all of the CI's already developed an area of expertise matrix for CDR's – this should be distributed again to stimulate possible across CI partnerships.
- Tour of ESSIC building

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

- **GMD Report – Liogys (handouts)**
 - Discussions on FFATA (Transparency act) and subgrants/subcontracts
 - Research terms and conditions
 - Research reporting
 - CIMSS seemed to have some issues in the past on this...
 - Annual grant report is due 9 months after initial award, then 12 months after the first report (So, if July 1, 2009 award date, first report would be due April 1, 2010, or 9 months of work). So, if it takes 1 month to get this done, then start reporting 8 months after award date, as Rimas says ***don't be late***!!!

- Seems like a real source of contention and confusion amongst CI directors, IG, etc.
 - Even further confusion over final report – last 3 months or if no-cost extension, still last 3 months. Can do a final/comprehensive report, but not required (just the last 3 months); optional at this point (I believe). This could change in the future.
- Regulations, applications and awards
- Other reporting
- **More general discussions**
 - More on training/education (Ackerman since he's here today...)
 - Past year was a learning experience; lets do more experiments and move forward
 - Steve has a fall remote sensing course (graduate level – 700) w/Bennartz and Heidenger, perhaps bring in some guest lecturers (virtually). CSU has a similar course.
 - If all goes well, following year, really try to have a cross-CI coordinated course
 - Steve A. will continue to take the lead on this.
 - Discussion on SATB
 - Graeme thinks that the document needs a compelling example of why the SATB is urgently needed! Maybe ISSCP, GPCP, CTB validation.
 - Steve M. was concerned about stove piping everything in a single facility, since that might not be the total answer (e.g., CRTM may not suit all applications)
 - Steve M. also suggests that there needs to be a clearer science component – how do we determine when a new algorithm is better than another one? IG reminded everyone that the SATB determines what is ready for R2O; its not an R2O activity.
 - Wayne H. wants to see linkages between SATB and CTB (Koblinsky?)
 - Phil thinks the exec. Summary makes it sound like a system/database project rather than a science activity; is it stated too generally rather than specific?
 - Should have a science advisory panel – define stakeholders and have them guide the priorities of the SATB (Wayne, Graeme, Phil, etc.)
 - Further comments should go to Steve G. directly.
 - Discussion on SDS/CDR
 - Graeme suggests perhaps a cross-CI interdisciplinary proposal to SDS...
 - Look for the RA later this summer
 - Then, maybe have a CI-Workshop focused on CDR's (hosted by NCDC?) in 2009...
 - Next CI directors meeting?
 - CIRA to tentatively host in summer of 2009.
 - Everyone felt that annual was good.
 - Maybe only have Steve A. attend the NOAA-wide meeting in February
- **STAR topics (Al Powell)**
 - Collaborations – GOES-R, NASA, CI's
 - Challenges
 - Succession planning
 - MOBY
 - International collaborations (Ukraine, China, India, Japan, Europe)

- Strategy for future
 - One primary initiative for STAR, many NOAA goal oriented ones
- Important STAR briefings
 - HES briefing
 - National Calibration Center (NCC)
 - NOAA general OSSE capability
 - SATB
 - Satellite operational algorithm readiness program (SOAR)
- AI also talked about MEDEA and sabbaticals

Afternoon Session

• JCSDA – (Lars-Peter Riishojgaard)

- General overview
- New emphasis – make JCSDA NWP models as competitive as possible with international NWP community via ingesting/utilization of as much satellite data as possible. Why? US forecasting skill is falling behind that from other NWP centers.
 - Lack of JCSDA funding?
 - No unified US move towards 4D-VAR assimilation
- New data sets coming on line – WindSat, IASI; 1-2 years lag at U.S. vs. ECMWF. Need to have more advance planning for upcoming datasets
- Funding – directed and external (about \$1.4 M/year; 15 projects @ 100K, 3-yr cycle)
- FY09 funding will focus on NPP/NPOESS – may not be an external announcement
- Maybe establish a visiting scientist program – CI folks to JCSDA and v.v.
- Discussion topic – seems like NOAA is not involved with all the needed research programs (as are UKMO, ECMWF). It was suggested by Graeme and Steve A. that the CI's can provide this proper link to JCSDA and EMC (to these "other" research programs). Lord and L-P.R. agreed.

• CPC Topics – (Wayne Higgins)

- CPC – CI Collaboration; how can these be enhanced?
- Overview of CPC mission, products, etc.
- Weather/Climate connection – 2 weeks to 2 months – weak link in understanding
- Climate Testbed
 - Established Aug 04; current director, Fiona Horsfall
 - High profile science activities
 - CFS/GFS improvements
 - Multi-model ensembles
 - Objective forecast products (drought/NIDIS)
 - CTB science advisory board (Tony B. is the head)
 - Competitive grants – 10 projects currently funded
 - CTB-COLA seminar series
 - Starting a visiting scientist program in FY09
- Where can CI's help CPC?
 - Expertise in mission critical areas
 - Collaborative applied research
 - Succession planning/training
- Example – CPC-CICS-STAR Action plan established. Graeme sees this very "beltway-centric" and it should be broader. Wayne is open to this, but notes that what

he is doing via CTB does not have to be all encompassing. Wayne also suggests that linkages to CTB should be put in the SATB document.

- Phil comments that historically, NWS has not interacted with CICS over the last 10 years (they did early on in CICS).

- **EMC Topics/Critical Issues – (Steve Lord)**

- General overview of EMC Mission
- Perhaps EMC might be interested in hooking up with CTB/Visiting scientist program?
- List of priorities, includes improving CRTM and land surface emissivity
- Examples of CI people contributing to operational transition – Jung, Li, Messinger, DeMaria, Bi. Some are remote. Lord feels that being on-site at NOAA is more beneficial than being remote (caveat – remote person should spend a period at EMC to better learn model, code, staff, etc. then can move to remote site).
- Discussion – how best to use CI's for EMC? Thinking is that some PhD's don't want to be contractors – CI's can help here; Steve Lord doesn't really agree. EMC wants to make sure that CI's use the operational codes and work closely with EMC staff. Seems like succession planning at EMC comes via their large contractor staff. IG suggests that something like this could be discussed at a future STAR/NCEP brown bag discussion.

- **Recompetition (Ingrid)**

- CIRA, CICS – this year. Lengthy process (started in 12/07). FFO – shooting for July (more likely August), LOI (optional), proposals due 90 days. Winner announced in Feb – April 2009.
- CIMSS – next year. Will start process earlier (11/08).